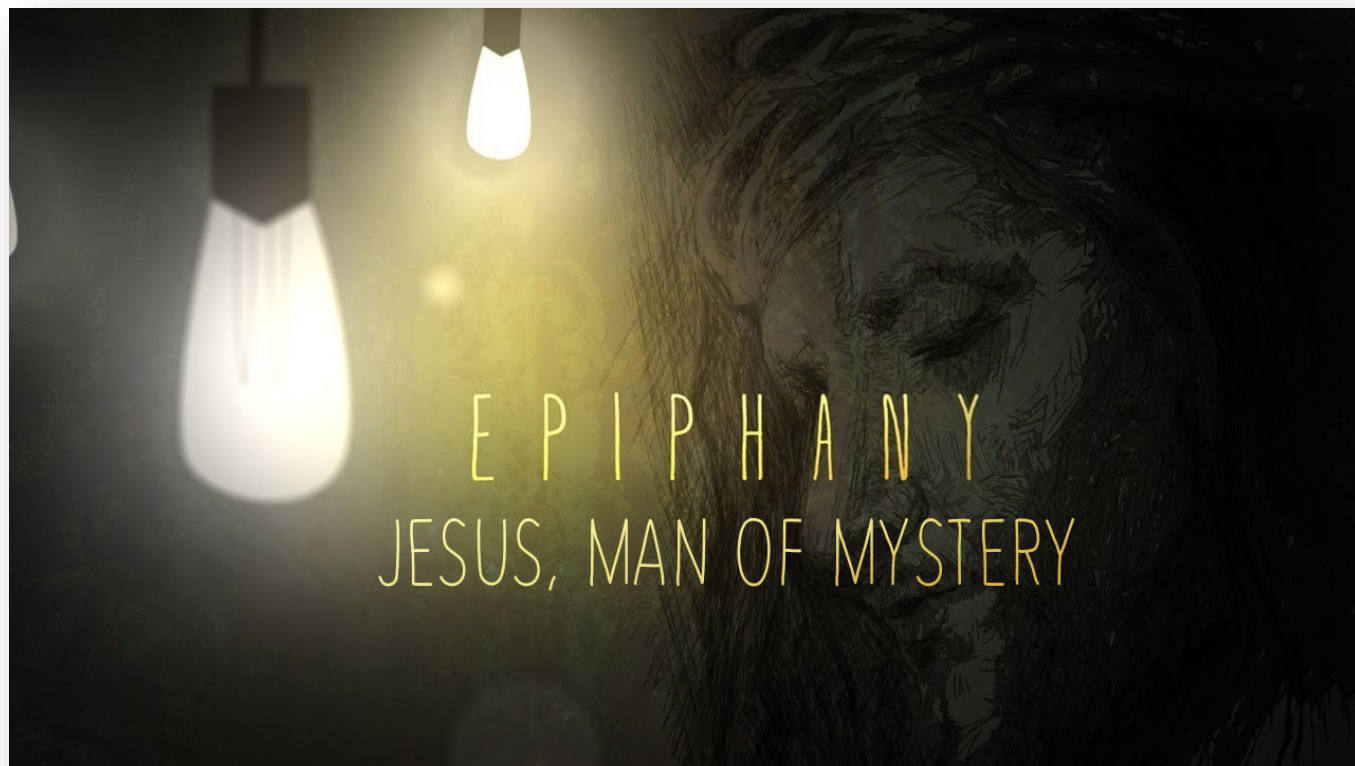


# The Season of Epiphany



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**“Love God, Serve Neighbor”**

January 10, 2021

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## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

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**Prelude**            “Down to the River/Shall We Gather at the River”    Annette Nolan

### **Pastoral Welcome**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

L: We gather in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**C: God, your light shines in the darkness, and we confess that sometimes we prefer to hide under cover of darkness, where we are free to participate in injustice, to hurt others and ourselves, to do whatever it takes to get ahead and to operate only in our comfort zone without challenge. We forget that your light of true freedom will shine, calling us to a more excellent way.**

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

L: God, you have forgiven us in Christ and freed us by your Spirit. Filled with your life, may our light so shine before others that they may see our good works and glorify you forever.

**C: Amen.**

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## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### **Greeting**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

Awesome God, Creator of all,  
the light of your glory fills the heavens,  
the breath of your Spirit blows through the skies, and  
the stars above stand as silent witnesses to your power.  
By your word all things were made.  
By your breath all things are sustained.  
By your hand we have been molded  
as a potter works the clay, formed from earthly dust  
into an image that bears your very likeness.  
By the waters of your creation, we have been baptized.  
Like our brother Jesus, you have spoken our names –  
Beloved Ones – and claimed as your children.  
By your grace we live and move and have our being,  
worshipping you with all creation, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## The First Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

Alex Christ

## “Speak, O Lord”

Laura Torrence

Speak, O Lord as we come to You  
To receive the food of Your holy word  
Take Your truth plant it deep in us  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,  
That will echo down through eternity.

CCLI Song # 4615235. Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

## The Gospel

Mark 1:4-11

## The Message

Pastor Ward Misenheimer



1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John,  
 2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,  
 3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;



he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.  
 for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.  
 this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond - age break.



He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,  
 So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,  
 Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:



to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.  
 the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.  
 to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

**Creed** (The creed to be recited will be announced each week.)

**Native American Creed**

The Rev. Roger Scott is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

*I believe in God, Creator of our unique native languages,  
 Who gifted us this identity as a distinct people through our  
 native tongues, so that our native spiritual leaders could  
 relay God's love to our native people who could not  
 understand that foreign tongue called English.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, our relative,  
 Who talked of us when he said, "I have other sheep out  
 there, besides those I have here."*

*I believe in Jesus Christ who knew the pain of our native  
 people who were forced from their homeland and had no  
 place to lay their head.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ as our Chief Cornerstone as we begin  
 to build a new generation of native spiritual leaders.  
 I believe in Jesus Christ who does not say "goodbye"  
 in any language, but says "I will come again."*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire  
 lighting upon our native people to witness to their people  
 and to the world, through the native song and dance.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit as our guide and the  
 driving force for our native people to do a new thing as we  
 walk a new journey, toward perfection for all humankind.*

**Apostles' Creed**

Although the Apostles' Creed as we know it did not have the final form until the 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> century AD, it was developed by the early church beginning around 150 AD. Formed around the Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – the Apostles' Creed is commonly used as an affirmation of baptism.

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.\*  
 On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.*

### **Affirmation of Faith**

This Affirmation of Faith was written by Pastor Andreas Wagner. The image of "light" is woven throughout making it an appropriate affirmation for the Epiphany Season.

*I believe in God, the Creator of the universe,  
Who spoke, "Let there be light!"  
And there was light,  
setting in motion all of creation and blessing it to this day.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ,  
the light of the world that shines in the darkness.  
The darkness cannot overcome it.  
He embodied humanity in the image of God.  
In kindness, truthfulness, humility and devotion,  
he suffered for the greater good.  
He was and is the Son of God.  
He died on the cross for us,  
God's saving grace!*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the guiding light of God in our world.  
Through his Spirit,  
God penetrates and reveals the darkness of human sin,  
and helps people grow and become the people they are  
meant to be.*

*I believe in the power of transformation,  
through God's spirit and light,  
here in this world and in the world to come.  
Amen.*

### **The Maasai Creed**

A beautiful example of a creed is the Maasai Creed. It was written around 1960 by the Congregation of the Holy Ghost ("Spiritans") in East Nigeria. It is designed on a threefold pattern of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*We believe in the one High God,  
who out of love created the beautiful world  
and everything good in it.  
God created man and woman  
and wanted them to be happy in the world.  
God loves the world and every nation  
and tribe on the Earth.  
We have known this High God in darkness,  
and now we know God in the light.  
God promised in the book of His word, the Bible,  
that God would save the world  
and all the nations and tribes.  
We believe that God made good God's promise  
by sending the Son, Jesus Christ,  
a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe,  
born poor in a little village,  
who left his home and was always on safari doing good,  
curing people by the power of God,  
teaching about God and humans,  
showing the meaning of religion is love.  
He was rejected by his people,  
tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross and died.  
He lay buried in the grave,  
but the hyenas did not touch him,  
and on the third day, he rose from the grave.  
He ascended to the skies. He is the Lord.  
We believe that all our sins are forgiven through him.  
All who have faith in him must be sorry for their sins,  
be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God,  
live the rules of love and share the bread together in love,  
to announce the Good News to others  
until Jesus comes again.  
We are waiting for Him. He is alive. He lives.  
This we believe. Amen.*

## **Prayers of the People of God**

L: Sisters and brothers, from the waters of baptism, we have received the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Teach us to yield to the Spirit, who shapes us to more closely embody the life of Jesus Christ and empowers us to reveal his love for the world. May our hands and feet be the hands and feet of Christ as we serve all people and strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

*A brief silence.*

L: God of all peace, in these moments of strife and discord, we pray for our country.

Call us to our better selves, that we may release all anger rooted in self-centeredness. Remind us of our mutual responsibilities to live as a republic, as one people together, grounded on the freedoms and traditions of our constitution. Free us from any desire to be first or foremost – or to get our own way, no matter the cost. Instead, grant us strength and courage to listen wholeheartedly to voices long silenced, work together for justice and peace and govern collaboratively as one nation with others far different from ourselves. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

L: God of all compassion, you call us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs. We pray for all of our sisters and brothers who seek comfort, healing, refuge, rest, peace, wholeness, community, acceptance, and unconditional love.

We especially pray for

- Trevor Basilice & Faith Hunt
- Lemont Bell
- Bethann Bluder
- Cannon family – Jennifer, Toney, and Taylor
- Marie Cochran
- Paul Coleman
- Deborah Dubose
- Inez Easley
- William Ensley
- Emma Fettig
- Eileen Folkerth
- Jennifer Frisina
- Herbert Goerke
- Mary Jo Gouge
- Dick Kuklantz
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Robert Williams Lewis
- Ray Matthews
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Rick Messina
- Dick Moser
- JL and Faith Moser
- Anita Ortiz
- Leo Peeler
- Pattie Quigley
- Richard Schulz
- Lee Stephens
- David Townsend
- Pat Townsend
- Herbert Watson
- Jenny Weems
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams
- Renate Wilson

L: We now pray aloud or in the silence of our hearts for those we wish to name (give time for community to pray).

L: We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially, those we name now:

- Joseph Oboh, friend of Shannon Roberson

By your Holy Spirit, comfort their families, and all who grieve, give peace to those who mourn, strengthen all through the promise of eternal life in Christ Jesus.

L: We pray for the families of those killed on Wednesday at the US Capitol, especially for Officer Brian Sicknick who died as a result of the injuries he sustained in the line of duty. We pray for all members of law enforcement who are called to protect and serve the places in which they work and the communities in which they live. Gracious God, hear our prayer.

L: Lord of all healing and care, we pray for all healthcare professionals and relief workers, especially those who find themselves on the frontlines to bring healing, comfort and care to all impacted by the coronavirus. We are grateful for the development of a vaccine and for those who are assisting in making it available. Strengthen, encourage, and empower us to be people of peace in the midst of anxiety, impatience, worry, and dread, as we hunger for life to be normal again. Gracious God, hear our prayer.

L: Gracious God, you have called us through the goodness of your grace to be your hands and do your work, to be your voice and share your words,  
to bring healing to a fallen world and wholeness to broken lives. Let your light shine through us and light the path for others, so that all may experience your love and share in the joy of your Holy Spirit. Amen

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

### Epiphany Blessing

**P: May the road that Christ walks to bring justice upon the earth, light to those who sit in darkness, and enduring hope to all creation run through our lives. May we be the road Christ takes.**

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### SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

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**"Lord, Let Your Servants Go in Peace"**(Canticle of Simeon)

Rob Beyersdorf

Lord, let your servants go in peace;  
we who have long waited.  
Fearful with doubt,  
we still kept watch in the night.  
Now we see your light.

Lord, let your servants go in peace;  
we who were rent asunder.  
Biased and blind,  
we labeled foes who were friends.  
Now we make amends.

Lord, let your servants go in peace;  
for you have kept your promise.  
With our own eyes  
we see salvation is won,  
born in Christ, your Son.